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O B S E R V A T I O N S

O N

S. W*****K's OWN EVIDENCE,

18

R E L A T I V E T O T H E

P R E T E N D E D R A P E,

A S P R I N T E D I N T H E T R I A L.

L O N D O N :

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ORSERVATIONS

2. WOODS EVIDENCE



RELATIVE TO THE

THE LONDON

THE LONDON

LONDON

Printed for T. F. in the Strand, near the Temple, London. G. H. H. H.

OBSERVATIONS, &c.

TRIAL

Page 2.

UPON trial of your several lives and deaths.

Page 3.

I live in King-Street.

OBSERVATIONS.

WHAT a most extraordinary woman must this prosecutrix be, to endeavour to take away the lives of three persons, who have upon their trial been acquitted of the crime she had accused them of.

Though the first part of this story relates entirely to seduction, which it was not the prisoner's business at that time to disprove, as the indictment was for a rape only, yet a few cursory remarks are made thereon.

B

Sup-

Page 4.

And would bring the ladies
some time or other to see him.

Suppose it should have been
to send a lady from Curtain-
Row to shew her the way to
his house.

I went to Curtain-Row, by
Holloway-Mount.

Suppose S. W——k went
alone without sister, friend,
or any one, to a lady's house
she had never been at before,
nor enquired after, near two
miles from her own, and from
thence went out again, late in
the evening, with a woman
she pretends she was deceived
by (to carry her wherever she
pleased) in a gentleman's coach;
will any one believe, that, at
her age, she would have acted
thus, merely from what a strange
woman could say to her?

Page 6.

He began to commit in-
decencies, such as putting his
tongue into her mouth, &c.

This is very unlikely for him
to have done at first seeing her,
and her mouth is in too bad a
condition for such a kifs.

He stood over me.

Vide Conversation between
a Saint and a Sinner, for S.
W——k's particular manner
of expressing herself.

This

Page 7.

I was quite outrageous.

This seems as if she was a great hypocrite; some of whom can kiss and kill, laugh and cry, in the same breath; this part is quite a romance, like Bluebeard.

Page 9.

And therefore begged he would not keep me in that prison of hell, for it was a prison of hell indeed.

S. W——k declared she could preach; had done so in private companies, and had been asked to do it in public.

I wrote three or four lines, and said more than the truth.

Her story appears, almost in every part, very doubtful from her own evidence, and more than the truth, or a perversion of the truth. What are we to think of an evidence, who speaks it as her practice to say more than the truth?

He said, I could confound the whole world.

It has proved too true.

Page 10.

Mr. Cox says, that part of her story was true.

One would conceive, from this expression, that a very small part of her story was believed, even by her own counsel.

It

Page 11.

Mixed a draught, and brought it me. I got a little more spirits.

It appears from her own evidence, that the draught did her good.

Page 12.

I had a little red wine: he said I must take another draught, for that was enough to kill me.

Red wine might be improper for her, therefore the same draught was given her as before. This proves there was no intention of using her ill; but, on the contrary, that care was taken of her. Had there been the least design of violating her, could he not have attained his ends by intoxication, infused cantharides in her wine, tea or draught; or gone into bed to her with Mrs. Hervey?

Began to open his breeches.

Vide Conversation between a Saint and a Sinner, in which she declares she had so much pleasure in feeling it in her hand.

Page 13.

I ceased very little.

This is prevarication, when pressed to speak to particulars.

Going abroad.

This is a foolish invention, as she does not even pretend her-

herself any such threats were made use of.

Page 14.

He then took me up behind the window-curtain.

Why did she not say as usual, forced her up behind the curtain.

I was in such a tremble.

Might not she tremble with eagerness and desire ?

They had forced me a top of the bed.

She does not say how she got into bed, nor that my lord so much as handed, or even desired her to come into bed.

Turned upon me.

From this it appears, my lord, when she first went into bed, must have had his back to her and did not speak ; therefore she must have gone into bed to him.

Between me, into me, upon me. Laid over me, I felt something come from him.

Vide Conversation of Saint and Sinner.

His fingers on my mouth.

Where were Sarah W—k's hands at that time ?

Lie over me, and smother me.

As if my lord was a second Bright, who buttoned seven men in his waistcoat.

Page 14.

And left me to live or die
as I could.

Here my lord is upbraided
with neglect. After so much
fatigue and force, she ought to
have been pleased with him
for giving her a respite; she
does not so much as pretend
to say, she attempted to get
out of bed; but it might be
for fear of catching cold.

I cried out, as I had done
before.

Did she say, oh lud! oh lud!
or did she desire him to use
her tenderly?

Page 15.

Great quantity of blood
came from me.

If this were true, much of
it must have been found in the
sheets.

I told her I should ever hate
every thing of the kind.

Sarah W——k should have
been outrageous; hate is sure-
ly too tender a word for the
injuries she had received from
all parties; she often declared
she would rather kill herself,
(according to her own account)
than consent to such wicked-
ness.

I began to tell her of the
usage I had received; but not
particulars.

What business had she, in
this easy manner, to acquaint
Ann Harvey with the usage
she

she had received, except she had a pleasure in the relation? If Ann Harvey should be asked, she probably would say, S. W——k very jocosely related to her more particulars than she desired to know.

Page 15.

With this I resolved to alter my carriage, for these three reasons.

From this it appears, that her real conduct could be fully proved; and therefore might she not think it necessary to alledge these strange reasons to palliate it.

I think it a crime to dance or play at cards; and that from the word of God.

It appears, from her evidence, that she has not been very nice in more material matters.

Page 16.

With that I was glad to hear the name, for I had never heard it before; and thought if I could get to London, and get a pen and ink, I would then write a letter, and throw it out of window.

But when she came to London, she acknowledges to have wrote to her father, and never mentioned lord B——.

Run along with him.

One would not imagine a woman, so fore as she is represented to be, could have run, or even walked.

So

Page 16.

I had then another excuse applicable to my sex, and begged she would go and beg me off; and therefore I went myself to him, and he gave me leave to go to bed elsewhere.

So that she came voluntarily and familiarly into his room, when he was in bed; she did not think of any force being offered her, though she pretends to have been so forced and afraid of force.

Page 17.

And I thought, that as these were his servants, they would be as the rest had been, and therefore I thought it best to keep it to myself.

What servants had done any thing to her? We do not hear of any, except old Mrs. G—.

And knowing they would use force, if I did not do it, I went into bed.

As before is observed, she had had a most recent proof, that if she made the least excuse, no force would be used, or her company so much as desired; and then she comes to bed to prevent force.

He jumped out of bed, and fetched the candle.

S. W—k must then lay very still, and would not blow out the candle.

And would not let him get a full sight.

No, not such a one as was proved she permitted the Dr. to have.

But

Page 18.

The maid left a pen and ink.

But you had no paper, I suppose.

And she carried me up into a stone garret.

What she called stone, was probably stucco.

Page 19.

I cannot come to you now.

Is not this a common way of speaking to persons whose company we want to get rid of, when engaged with company we like better? She does not pretend to say, his lordship, or any one else, was near her. She might have said, I wish to come to you. Come and release me out of *this prison of hell*. I am kept here by force; have been used very ill. Mrs Harvey brought me here, and I have been shamefully treated, and ravished by force. But by her sudden shutting down the window, it appears plain as the sun, that she would not give him any further conversation.

Page 20.

Was for my father to come to me.

She always intended her father to come to her.

D

A strange

Page 21.

A strange account !

Page 22.

He asked me, if I was there by my own consent : I said, yes ; I wanted to see my father.

She could not then be afraid of his lordship, who was not near her, nor any of his servants.

Page 23.

My friends carried me there. I do not know the reason of my being there.

Or rather her enemies.

Sir John asked me, If I was not full of indignation, at such usage ; and if I was not willing to prosecute lord B——?

This seems to be urging her to do what she never had any thoughts of.

I am twenty-seven.

She does not always speak exactly ; for it appeared from her own evidence, upon her cross-examination, she was upwards of thirty.

Page 25.

Threats of doing for me.

These words may be construed very different ways ; it is plain he did not *threaten to blow her brains out*.

Page 26.

He said, it must be that night I got away from him. I

It is very extraordinary her memory should not serve her better :

do not know that I made him any answer to it.

better; for first, she says she made no answer, and then thinks proper to add, she did answer. She had rather give her life one hundred times over; and *after all we do not find she ever killed herself once.* After the insult offered behind the curtain, and she was told (by her own account) what was to happen at night, she should have called out for help to the servants and workmen.

Page 27.

Two women led me into the room.

i. e. *By force, violence, and rough means, as she has before described.* She does not pretend to say she made any resistance, or that she screamed out, or made any noise at all.

For this reason, I was in such a fright, I dared not stir hand or foot, for fear he should hear me, and turn to me.

This is an imposition upon sense, and such an answer as none but a W——k would have thought on.

Page 29.

Q. Was there a bed put up for you in Madam Saunier's apartment?

A. No.

It is here very remarkable how she disguises the truth, which notwithstanding is plain to be seen through; for after positively

Q. You did not chuse to lie there?

A. No, I did not. I was afraid.

positively denyin gthat a bed was put up in Madam Sau-
nier's room, she afterwards
says, she was afraid to lay
there. How could she be
afraid of what she did not
know?

Page 30.

I told him I would not go
with him; but I knew he
would use force, if I did not.

This has been answered be-
fore, and is extremely ridicu-
lous; as she was so long in
his house, he might have done
what he pleased all day long.

Page 31.

Q. Why did you not get
away when you was in the
street?

A. I did not know but ser-
vants were there.

I did not think of it.

What, could not you, in so
long a time, find a better an-
swer? Perhaps you was not
aware of this question, or you
might have been furnished
with a better excuse to it.

Page 32.

Not that I know of.
I do not recollect.

A deal of this sort of pre-
varication is observable in this
woman's evidence.

Page 33.

I carried away the key of
the garret.

This alone proves, beyond
all doubt, her being situated
in the house in a friendly way;
her intention to remain there,
and not to quit it.

This

Page 33.

He gave me thirteen guineas on Christmas-day.

This is very extraordinary, that, after the foregoing part of her evidence, she should receive his money.

Did you not tell lord Mansfield?

Her declarations there are no doubt true; and very material to shew her desire of staying with lord B——.

Page 34.

I expressed an inclination.

How she prevaricates and quibbles in this place?

I can't tell exactly what I said.

She prevaricates again.

Q. What made you write so foreign to your heart

She does not pretend to say she was forced or even desired to write this letter; therefore why wrote foreign to her heart?

Q. When you found lord Mansfield had a power to set you at liberty, then you told him you had been violated?

A. No, not in lord Mansfield's house.

Court. Did you tell her whether it was with or without your consent?

A. I said no; without my consent.

First then, she says she has not been violated; then says she told her sister she was ruined; and on being asked by the court, whether it was with or without her consent, says she was violated; that is, she was ruined without her consent.

E

Page 34.

I was so overjoyed at being at liberty, that I thought of nothing else.

It appears from this expression, that she had no thought at that time of what she was immediately after induced to do.

THERE has not been time, since the publication of the trial, to observe minutely on many other parts of her *story*; especially the remarkable contradictions to her evidence, by the evidence given for the defendants. The whole of the affair is, that either she *is mistaken in her story* beyond example; or that a great number of persons of character, at least as good as the religious, the virtuous, and the modest Sarah W——k, must have been totally mistaken in theirs.

N. B. The questions in the trial, said to have been asked by lord B——, were not asked by him, but by his council.

T H E E N D.



